Mountain Weather Forecast

Southwest Highlands

Including Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and the rest of Lochaber, Argyll including the Isles, Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Arran

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 26 Dec 2023 at 17:49 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Wednesday, although some uncertainty in the timing of the rise in freezing levels in the afternoon. High for changeable weather to continue into the weekend.

Headline for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023: Stormy with widespread heavy snow in the morning, drier in the afternoon

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Blizzards Medium Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Medium Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
30%	50%	>95%	>95%	60%	60%	30%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Weather: Widespread heavy snow will develop in the early hours, continuing until mid to late morning. Snow will turn to rain as it clears away, with some showers of rain, sleet and snow following on behind from during the afternoon and evening. Very treacherous conditions expected widely in the morning with gusty winds across all upland areas.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance for much of the day although cloud becoming more broken in the evening

Low Cloud and visibility: Whiteout conditions expected in snow for much of the day with extensive cloud down to 400 to 700 metres, this becoming more broken in the evening.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	42/51 SE	56/70 SE	74/93 SE	81/103 SE	64/82 SE	29/36 S	30/37 S	26/33 SW	25/31 S
900	34/46 SE	43/58 SE	54/71 SE	59/80 SE	47/65 SE	18/26 S	21/28 SW	19/26 S	17/23 S
600	31/41 SE	56/74 SE	72/89 SE	79/98 SE	60/78 SE	15/20 S	24/30 S	18/24 SW	19/25 S
300	18/29 E	34/51 E	42/61 SE	48/72 SE	38/60 SE	11/17 SE	11/17 S	9/14 SW	10/17 S
Glen	7/14 NE	15/26 NE	27/54 SE	35/68 SE	31/58 SE	6/13 SE	8/16 SW	5/14 SW	7/15 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-6/-17	-6/-19	-5/-19	-4/-18	-4/-17	-2/-10	-3/-11	-3/-12	-4/-12
900	-4/-14	-3/-14	-3/-14	-3/-15	-3/-13	-0/-7	-0/-7	-1/-8	-2/-8
600	2/-5	3/-6	1/-9	1/-9	3/-6	2/-2	2/-4	1/-5	1/-5
300	2/-4	2/-6	2/-6	1/-8	1/-7	4/0	4/0	3/-1	2/-2
Glen	2/-1	4/-1	4/-2	3/-5	4/-3	5/3	6/3	5/3	4/2
Freezing Level*	300m	400m	500m	400m	500m	1000m	900m	800m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

A very treacherous morning across all ranges with heavy, drifting snow and storm force winds. Speeds may reach 100 mph or so across the Nevis ranges for a time. A thaw of lying snow is likely for a time in the afternoon as freezing levels start to rise, so burns and paths at lower levels may see some flooding. Freezing levels may rise to 1200 to 1500 metres in the afternoon before dropping back to 800 metres in the evening.

Forecast for Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Weather: Mostly cloudy with some showers or longer spells of rain, with snow above 700 metres or so. Turning drier from the north in the evening. Cold summit winds.

Maximum wind: Southerly 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, best chance in the morning in the north of the area

Low Cloud and visibility: Very good outside of cloud and precipitation. Areas of cloud between 600 and 900 metres, this most extensive in the afternoon.

Temperature: **Glens:** Minus 1 rising to 4 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 900 metres

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